

*In This Issue*

# THE CONVENTION STORY

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# FEDERATIONIST



OUR 72<sup>nd</sup> CONVENTION

George Meany presiding

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# The American FEDERATIONIST

Official Monthly Magazine of the American Federation of Labor

OCTOBER, 1953

GEORGE MEANY, *Editor*

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Inside

## Division of Labor

The greatest improvement in the productive powers of labor and the greater part of the skill, dexterity and judgment with which it is anywhere directed or applied seem to have been the effects of the division of labor.

The effects of the division of labor, in the general business of society, will be more easily understood by considering in what manner it operates in some particular manufactory. It is commonly supposed to be carried furthest in some very trifling ones; not perhaps that it really is carried further in them than in others of more importance: but in those trifling manufactures which are destined to supply the small wants of but a small number of people, the whole number of workmen must necessarily be small; and those employed in every different branch of the work can often be collected into the same workhouse and placed at once under the view of the spectator.

In those great manufactures, on the contrary, which are destined to supply the great wants of the great body of the people, every different branch of the work employs so great a number of workmen that it is impossible to collect them all into the same workhouse. We can seldom see more, at one time, than those employed in one single branch.

Though in such manufactures, therefore, the work may really be divided into a much greater number of parts than in those of a more trifling nature, the division is not near so obvious, and has accordingly been much less observed. \* \* \*

The division of labor, so far as it can be introduced, occasions in every art a proportionable increase of the productive powers of labor. The separation of different trades and employments from one another seems to have taken place in consequence of this advantage. This separation, too, is generally carried furthest in those countries which enjoy the highest degree of industry and improvement; what is the work of one man in a rude state of society being generally that of several in an improved one.

Adam Smith, 1776.

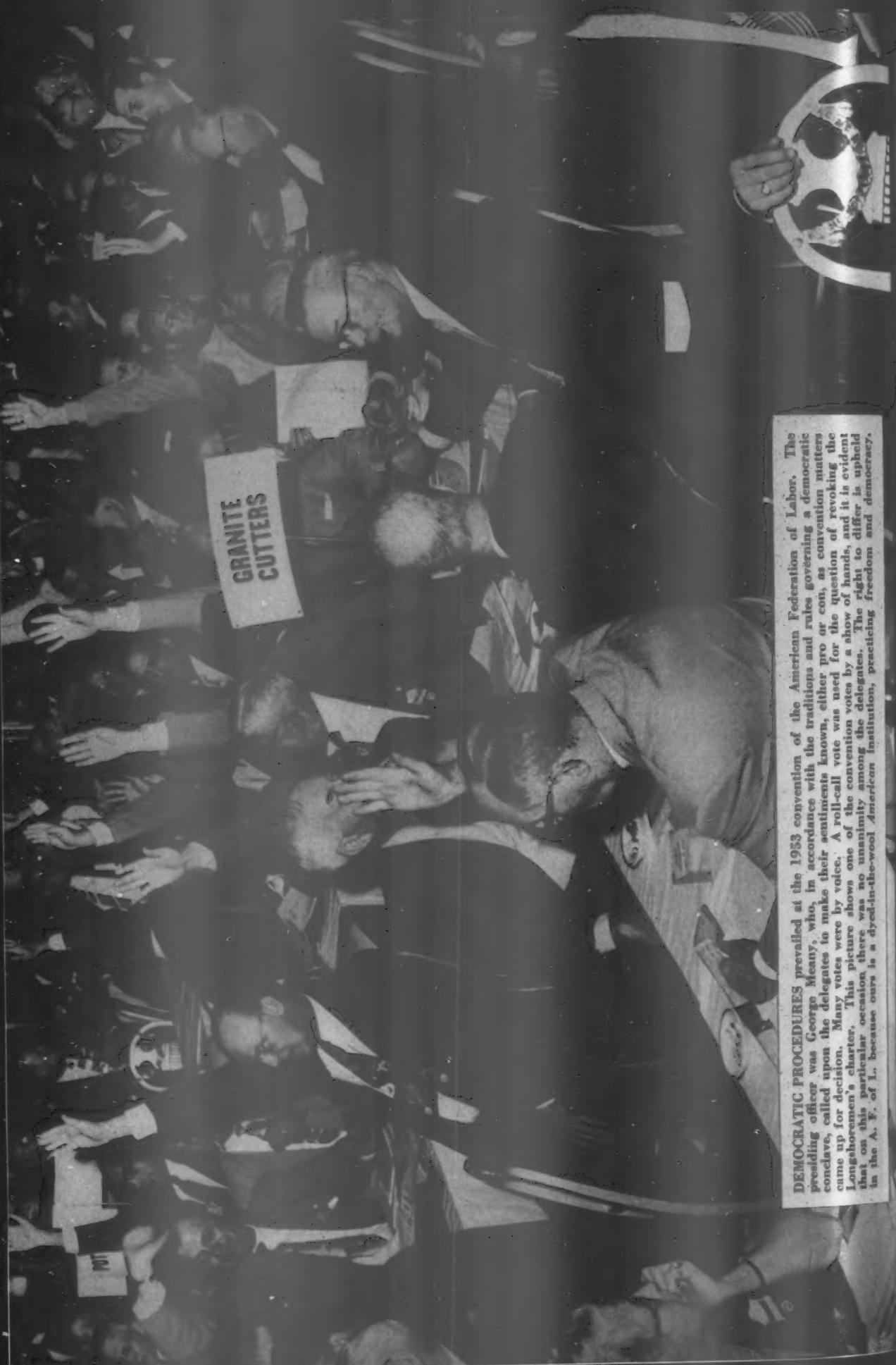
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## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR OFFICERS

*The St. Louis convention elected the following officers for the ensuing term:*

President GEORGE MEANY	Secretary-Treasurer WILLIAM F. SCHNITZLER,
First Vice-President MATTHEW WOLL	Eighth Vice-President CHARLES J. MACGOWAN
Second Vice-President GEORGE M. HARRISON	Ninth Vice-President HERMAN WINTER
Third Vice-President DANIEL J. TOBIN	Tenth Vice-President DANIEL W. TRACY
Fourth Vice-President HARRY C. BATES	Eleventh Vice-President WILLIAM L. McFETRIDGE
Fifth Vice-President WILLIAM C. BIRTHRIGHT	Twelfth Vice-President JAMES C. PETRILLO
Sixth Vice-President WILLIAM C. DOHERTY	Thirteenth Vice-President DAVE BECK
Seventh Vice-President DAVID DUBINSKY	Fourteenth Vice-President MAURICE A. HUTCHESON
Fifteenth Vice-President.....A. J. HAYES	

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DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES prevailed at the 1953 convention of the American Federation of Labor. The presiding officer was George Meany, who, in accordance with the traditions and rules governing a democratic conclave, called upon the delegates to make their sentiments known, either pro or con, as convention matters came up for decision. Many votes were by voice. A roll-call vote was used for the question of revoking the Longshoremen's charter. This picture shows one of the convention votes by a show of hands, and it is evident that on this particular occasion, there was no unanimity among the delegates. The right to differ is upheld in the A. F. of L. because ours is a dyed-in-the-wool American institution, practicing freedom and democracy.

# TRULY A GREAT CONVENTION

THE 1953 CONVENTION of the American Federation of Labor will long be remembered. It was one of the greatest conventions in the history of the Federation. It was a convention that transacted a vast amount of business, made a number of historic decisions and took action of a far-reaching nature on a multitude of domestic and international problems of vital concern to all working people.

The seventy-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was held at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. It was the first convention of the A. F. of L. to be held in that city in forty-three years. The convention opened Monday morning, September 21, and it closed Friday afternoon, September 25. Through the five busy days of the democratic conclave, the officers and delegates were always "on the track." They knew what they were doing and they knew where they were going. Consequently, a great deal of work was done—done well—in one of the shortest A. F. of L. conventions since the founding convention at Pittsburgh in 1881.

The seventy-second convention was the first to be presided over by George Meany, the new president of the American Federation of Labor. It was also the first convention at which William F. Schnitzler, the new secretary-treasurer, served in this capacity. Both men were praised highly for their splendid work since taking office in action unanimously ratified by the delegates.

Present at St. Louis were 713 delegates, the largest number in history. They represented in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 members—far and away the greatest A. F. of L. membership total.

The convention was keyed by President Meany with a challenging call for progress in the nation and peace in the world. He paid a warm tribute to William Green, our late president. He discussed the threat of communism. He described the great change in Washington, said the American people will continue to look to their government for necessary action and urged stepped-up political action by labor. He received loud and prolonged applause when he said that

there is "no excuse whatsoever for squandering trade union money in a battle over a few members on the ground that a principle of jurisdiction is involved" and noted that the American Federation of Labor "was not formed as a battleground for competing trade unionists."

It was an outstanding keynote speech, forthright and comprehensive, and it marked the start of what proved to be one of the greatest of all A. F. of L. conventions. On the pages which follow, the reader will find a report covering highlights of the five history-making days in St. Louis.



President Meany and Secretary Schnitzler. The Federation's officers were commended. Their election to new terms was unanimous.

# The Convention Day by Day

WHAT HAPPENED . . . AS IT HAPPENED

## FIRST DAY

*Increase in political activity is necessary, President Meany tells convention in his keynote speech; delegates hear reports on Europe*

The seventy-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor opened Monday morning, September 21, in the Gold Room of the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. Louis J. Renschen, president of the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis, was the temporary chairman.

A. F. of L. Vice-President Matthew Woll gave the invocation. Then all the delegates and others present rose and sang the American and Canadian national anthems. A chorus of members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union sang several selections.

The convention was formally welcomed to St. Louis by William A. Webb, executive secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union; Joseph Cousin, secretary-treasurer of the St.

Louis Building and Construction Trades Council; Samuel Liberman, city counselor; Aloys P. Kaufmann, president-elect of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce; James P. Blair, Lieutenant Governor of Missouri, and John I. Rollings, president of the Missouri State Federation of Labor.

Beautiful roses grown at Pana, Illinois, under a union shop contract were presented by Organizer Harry Skaggs on behalf of the Greenhouse Workers, Federal Labor Union 22476. A gavel and a striking plate made of Missouri timber were presented to President George Meany by Mr. Rollings, who observed that the gavel bore the label of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

Temporary Chairman Renschen expressed his great pleasure in welcoming the convention and voiced the hope that the delegates would find their stay in St. Louis "very enjoyable." Brother Renschen then introduced President Meany. There was prolonged applause as President

Meany stepped forward to deliver his first A. F. of L. convention keynote address.

President Meany paid a warm tribute to the late William Green in the first portion of the keynote address.

"I am sure," said President Meany, "all of us here this morning have some serious thoughts uppermost in our minds regarding the problems

*Excerpts from Mr. Meany's keynote address will be found on Page 35.*

that we face. All of us are thinking of the future of this great organization and, I am sure, what is more important, the future of this great nation.

"I am sure, however, that in the mind of everyone here this morning there is a feeling of sadness. For the first time in many, many years the familiar figure of Bill Green is missing at the opening session of a convention of the American Federation of Labor."

President Meany referred to the 1952 convention in New York and the determination of Bill Green "to carry on the work that he had carried on for so many years, despite the fact that it was quite evident that he was not going to be able to carry on very long."

"For twenty-seven years and eleven months," the speaker said, "Bill Green carried the torch of American labor—carried it and held it high."

President Meany, in the latter part of his keynote address, said:

"We are going to continue to look to Washington and to our government for the things that mean so much to the great mass of the people in this country. If we are going to continue to look, then we must come to the conclusion that our political activity must be stepped up. No better argument can be put forth for political action in the interests of our movement to carry out the objectives for which we are organized than the



Delegates registered at convention hotel. There were more delegates this year than ever before. They represented the largest membership in A. F. of L. history



President Meany (above) delivering his keynote address. He paid warm tribute to the late William Green. The future of our country must be the first concern of members of organized labor, Mr. Meany emphasized. At left, Mr. Meany receiving gavel from John Rollings, Missouri leader



record of this Congress this past spring."

After referring to the objectives of the American Federation of Labor, President Meany said:

"Someone has said that we should have a Bible of trade union ethics. We don't need any Bible of trade union ethics. We know the purpose of our movement; we have the God-given intelligence to know the right from wrong, and we can apply that intelligence under the rules of this organization as it now exists to see to it that organizations do not depart from the path of real, sound trade union activity."

Noting that the American Federation of Labor "was not formed as a battleground for competing trade unionists," the president of the Federation told the convention:

"There is no excuse for competition for a few members on the part of organizations that have tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of members, and no excuse whatsoever for squandering trade union money in a battle over a few members on the ground that the principle of jurisdiction is involved."

There was prolonged applause from the delegates.

President Meany emphasized that the matter of first concern is "the future of our country."

"We think of the menace to that future from the one nation on earth that threatens world peace today," he said. "We think of the American economy, how the American economy must be kept strong, not only because it is good for the people of America here within the confines of our own

borders but because it is good for all of the people of the world who believe in decency and freedom that the American economy be kept strong."

The speaker observed that high wages and high purchasing power are what keep the American economy strong, and he asserted that without high wages and high purchasing power "this economy would collapse in a matter of ten days."

The appointment of convention officers was announced. D. M. Burrows, secretary of the Credentials Committee, was called upon to present the committee's partial report. President Meany then recognized William F. Schnitzler, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, who read the names of delegates appointed to serve as members of the various convention committees. Secretary Schnitzler also read—at the request of the chairman of the Resolutions Committee—a recommendation that no late resolutions should be accepted after 5 P.M. Put to a vote, this recommendation was unanimously approved.

At the opening of the afternoon session Secretary Schnitzler read messages received from President Walter Freitag of (Please turn to Page 8)



Two new members of the Executive Council congratulated each other. They are M. A. Hutcheson, at left, president of the Carpenters, and A. J. Hayes, Machinists' chieftain

## At the Convention

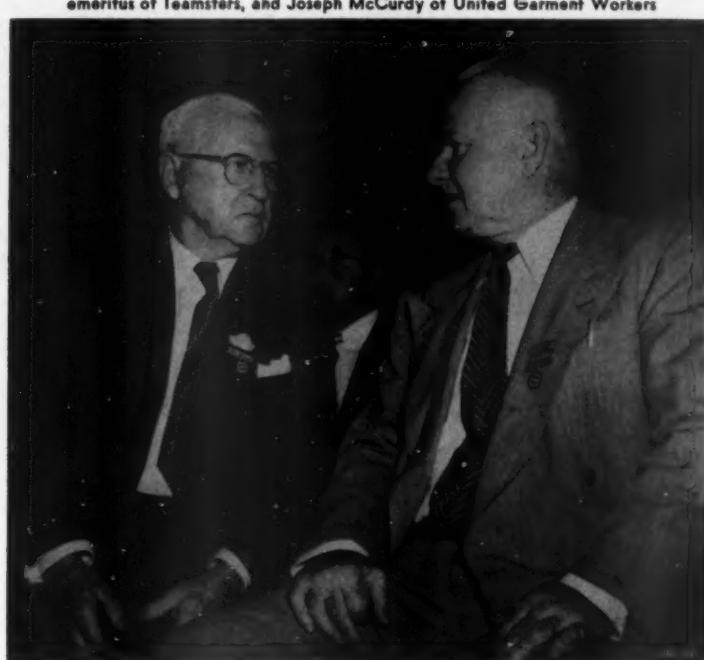
In this photo one sees five members of the A. F. of L. Executive Council. In front row, from left to right, are George M. Harrison, W. C. Doherty and Herman Winter. Behind them are William L. McFetridge and Dave Beck



Harry C. Bates, president of the Bricklayers and a Council member, raised his hand to register a vote



Dave Beck was active at the convention. Teamsters' head is A. F. of L. vice-president



Labor's problems were discussed by Daniel J. Tobin (left), president emeritus of Teamsters, and Joseph McCurdy of United Garment Workers



William C. Petrillo (left), president of American Federation of Musicians, and Charles J. MacGowan, leader of the Boilermakers



D. W. Tracy (left), president of the Electrical Workers, was snapped with Robert Byron, Sheet Metal Workers' president

of the  
member,  
a vote

the West German Trade Union Federation and from President Omer Becu and Secretary J. H. Oldenbroek of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

A supplemental report of the Executive Council on the affairs of the International Longshoremen's Association was read and referred to the Resolutions Committee. Other supplemental reports, dealing with the constitution of the A. F. of L., selection of convention cities and retirement provisions for A. F. of L. officers, were also read and referred to committees.

Gordon C. Cushing, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the fraternal delegate from Canada, was introduced by President Meany for an address to the convention. Brother Cushing reported a "tremendous" membership growth.

"During the last two years," he said, "we have increased by some 20 per cent, and now the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada ranks without question as the great trade union center in our country."

The fraternal delegate scored the Canadian Medical Association and Bar Association. Those "strongest of closed shop unions," he said, are doing "everything possible to retard our social progress."

### Report on Britain

Edwin Hall, a veteran leader of Britain's National Union of Mine Workers and one of two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, addressed the convention after an introduction in which President Meany observed that continued cooperation between the American Federation of Labor and the T.U.C. "is not only important to free labor but everywhere on earth."

Brother Hall traced the decline of Britain's coal industry under private operation and the rejuvenation and modernization of the industry since nationalization. Under state ownership, the fraternal delegate reported, miners' wages have risen by more than 200 per cent, modern machinery has been introduced and production, from 1946 to 1952, has increased "by an amount equal to the full production of Belgium and Holland."

The Mine Workers bargain with the National Coal Board, Brother Hall explained, and when there is a failure

to agree, the issue is referred to an independent arbitrator for final decision.

Ralph Wright, labor counselor, International Labor Organization, followed Brother Hall at the microphone. Brother Wright, a member of the International Typographical Union, is a former Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The speaker emphasized that the International Labor Organization, like the American Federation of Labor, holds that "only in a free world can man's dignity be upheld."

"The I.L.O. is constantly working for freedom and peace in striving to eliminate the economic and social causes of totalitarianism by fighting hunger and misery wherever they exist," Brother Wright said. "The I.L.O. is concerned, as you are, that the workers and employers of all countries be free—free to organize, free to bargain collectively, free to hold up their heads as dignified children of God."

Brother Wright also read a message from David A. Morse, director-general of the I.L.O. The message referred in part to the important role of the American Federation of Labor in bringing the question of forced labor before the United Nations for investigation.

The convention listened next to A. C. Rocchi, a secretary of the C.I.S.L., the democratic Confederation of Italian Labor. President Meany, in introducing Brother Rocchi, praised the C.I.S.L. as "a bulwark of strength in the fight against the Communist efforts to dominate Italy by means of grabbing control of the workers and the worker organizations."

The speaker conveyed the gratitude of the freedom-loving Italian workers represented by his organization for the support and assistance given to them by the American Federation of Labor. He reported that "substantial progress" has been achieved in the last four years by those who believe in democratic trade unionism in Italy. Then Brother Rocchi said:

"However, I want to point out that we have still to overcome many obstacles. Italian free labor must very often fight on three different fronts. It must struggle against reactionary and selfish employers. It must lead a daily hard fight against the menaces and the poisonous inducements of the

Communists. Finally, we have often to carry out a tiring work of persuasion toward an administration which does not always seem to realize the importance and the worth of free labor."

Signor Rocchi spoke in Italian, and the translation was read by Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler.

### German Events

Henry Rutz, representative of the American Federation of Labor in Germany during the postwar period, addressed the convention. He spotlighted the grave threat against the unity of the West German trade union movement resulting from Chancellor Adenauer's recent call for "a split in the present democratic labor ranks along religious lines such as exist in France, Belgium, Italy, Holland and Switzerland."

"German industrialists and the Conservative Party politicians should seriously weigh the consequences of a union split," said Brother Rutz. "A



Henry Rutz rapped efforts to split labor in West Germany

division in labor's ranks can only result in a growth of the Communist forces, which up to now have played a very insignificant role in Western Germany's industrial life. The present situation in France and Italy should be a warning of what can happen in a country where workers are not united in one democratic, anti-Communist trade union federation."

Brother Rutz hailed the heroic anti-Communist resistance of the workers in Eastern Germany and said their continued sitdown strikes and demonstrations make clear that they "do not intend to let themselves be smashed by the Communist heel." He voiced the hope that some day the workers of Eastern Germany will be able to unite with Western Germany's Trade

Union Federation "free of any governmental influence." Some day, he said, such a labor organization might be the deciding factor in the success or failure of Communist Russia's drive to the West.

Irving Brown, A. F. of L. representative in Europe, discussed important new developments in Soviet Russia, France, Germany, Italy, North Africa and elsewhere. He reported that the economy of Europe is still unstable despite increased production and a reduction of the dollar gap. He warned emphatically against the change in Soviet tactics since Stalin's death.

"With the death of Stalin and the end of the military war in Korea," said Brother Brown, "we may be entering a new epoch in which all foreign policy will have to be reexamined and revised.

"It is becoming clearer each day that the basic political objectives of Western foreign policy which came into being with the Marshall Plan in 1947 are not being achieved and perhaps never will be if present American foreign policy continues."

In regard to Germany, the European representative of the American Federation of Labor said:

"A double victory for democracy and a double defeat for the Soviet Union have taken place in recent months and practically placed Germany once again in the center of the stage of European politics."

Brother Brown called for "another approach" to the European problem. Money alone, he said, will not solve international problems. In the new approach which he advocated, the speaker said that major emphasis should be given to "American leadership in the formulation, implementation and execution of political policy." Brother Brown urged making NATO into a political and economic organization as well as a military one. He recommended the granting to Germany of "complete sovereignty and integration into NATO."

The speaker discussed the situation in North Africa and other Moslem areas. He paid a warm tribute to the late Farhat Hached, the great Tunisian trade union leader who was assassinated by French terrorists last December. The free trade union world, said Brother Brown, cannot continue to support a policy in Western Europe "which becomes,

either consciously or unconsciously, the means for the repression of potential allies in the Middle East and North Africa."

President Meany announced that a memorial service in honor of the late President Green would be held Thursday afternoon as a special order of business. At 5:30 P.M. the first day of the convention came to a close.

## SECOND DAY

*How Eisenhower reversed stand on amending T-H Act is told; national and state legal picture drawn by General Counsel Woll*

The convention was called to order at 9:45 A.M. The invocation was given by Dr. O. Walter Wagner, executive director of the Metropolitan Church Federation of Greater St. Louis. Secretary Schnitzler then read messages from Senators Matthew M. Neely and James E. Murray and also other communications addressed to the convention.

President Meany announced the death at an advanced age of Simon Gompers, the last remaining brother of Samuel Gompers. Simon Gompers was a life-long member of the Sheet Metal Workers.

Moshe Bitan, American representative of the Israeli Federation of Labor, the Histadrut, addressed the convention. He said the Federation now represents 500,000 members out of a total population of only 1,500,000. He emphasized that Israel is a democratic nation surrounded by nations where power is held "by a mere handful." The speaker expressed his thanks for the friendship and support manifested by the American Federation of Labor under President Meany and the late President Green.

J. Albert Woll, A. F. of L. general counsel, was next at the microphone. He delivered a comprehensive address dealing with the difficult legal situations in which organized labor now finds itself. He condemned the growing tendency on the part of many state courts to extend the use of injunctions in industrial disputes "by determinations that certain labor objectives are illegal or are contrary to public policy or some other equally undefined principle."

"Too frequently," said Mr. Woll, "these determinations appear to be based on the particular whim or fancy of the individual judge, formed large-



First Vice-President Matthew Woll, Resolutions Committee's chairman

ly from his predilections for or against labor unions."

The A. F. of L.'s general counsel reported that employer lawyers, in increasing numbers, are invoking existing anti-labor laws in the states and urging a construction and application far beyond the original intent of the Legislatures and also beyond what a literal reading of the statutes would indicate. He told how this strategy was used to enjoin virtually all labor activity "of whatever nature" throughout Texas. Mr. Woll also called attention to the fact that, although only the federal courts and



Nelson Cruikshank discussed social security, asked for better Congress

the National Labor Relations Board have the right to apply the Taft-Hartley Act, some state judges are taking it upon themselves to apply the federal anti-labor statute.

Mrs. Mary Ryder, long a leading figure in the St. Louis labor movement, appealed to the male trade unionists of the nation to inform their womenfolk concerning the principles and the objectives of organized labor. She also stressed the importance of political education among the wives and daughters of workingmen. Mrs. Ryder scored labor's foes for spreading insidious propaganda among the nation's women. In regard to the 1952 elections, she declared that millions of women voted wrong simply because "they were not informed."

#### French Unionism

The next speaker was Pierre Ferri-Pisani of Marseilles, France, general secretary of the Mediterranean Committee of the International Transport Workers Federation and a gallant fighter for democratic trade unionism. M. Ferri-Pisani spoke in French and a translation of his remarks was then read by Secretary Schnitzler.

The speaker, noting that the American and French labor movements are "of different types," said that the unions of France today are rather weak and occupy an "inferior" position within the nation which "suits the employers." He also referred to "the

public's scorn of a labor movement which refuses to take on real responsibilities."

"These facts and many others which there is no time to mention here," said M. Ferri-Pisani, "will doubtless give you an idea of the reasons which cause many French trade unionists to reflect upon the problem of building a labor movement on an entirely new basis. If one could eliminate archaic and useless doctrines, destroy the verbal idols which are shared by the Communists, with the difference that the latter are never fooled by them, it would make possible a wide regrouping of labor forces and prepare French labor to escape from its backward position and join the advanced movements of the modern world."

Colonel Justice M. Chambers, Assistant Civil Defense Administrator, addressed the convention. He said:

"If Russia should drop one little bomb over one of our cities of the size we dropped over Japan, we would get casualty and property destruction on a scale unknown to America throughout its entire history."

Civil defense is vital, he said. In cities where an effective organization for civil defense does not exist, he advised unionists to "raise hell until you do get it."

President Meany, following Colonel Chambers' speech, said:

"I am sure the delegates realize the

importance of this particular activity and how serious it is to all the people of America."

Next to address the convention was Nelson Cruikshank, director of social insurance activities for the American Federation of Labor. He told of labor's constant struggle to defend the social security program against its enemies and of the continued efforts to bring about needed improvements. The speaker reported in detail on the "three-pronged" drive now in full swing against the social security system.

Mr. Cruikshank closed his address with a fervent appeal to the nation's working people to "give us a Congress that will listen to the needs of the people."

"We do not want a paternalistic government taking care of all our needs," he said, "and we don't want benefits under any social program in place of wages, but we do want and mean to get a system that will enable working people to make their contribution to society and to live in their declining years in freedom and dignity."

#### Durkin Speaks

At the afternoon session Martin P. Durkin, the former Secretary of Labor, addressed the convention.

Brother Durkin, who is now back as president of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of

Ex-Secretary of Labor Durkin told how President Eisenhower first agreed to T-H amendments and later changed his position



the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, first told the convention of his selection of assistants while in charge of the Department of Labor, the budgetary difficulties he encountered and his reorganization of the Department to make it more efficient. Then he launched into a detailed description of the efforts of the Department under his leadership to assist the Administration in the development of "sound, equitable amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act in the interest of the entire nation."

The speaker described various meetings held early in the year which proved fruitless. Then, he said, meetings were begun at the White House "between staff personnel there and representatives of the Department of Labor."

"After numerous meetings and long deliberations," said the former Secretary of Labor, "some nineteen amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act were agreed to between the White House staff representatives of the President and the Department of Labor representatives. Throughout these meetings the fact was made clear by the White House staff personnel that they were regularly acquainting the President with developments resulting from our conferences and that all of our meetings were continuing with the full knowledge and consent of the President."

"When agreement was reached between representatives of the President and the representatives of the Department of Labor, we were told that all nineteen amendments had the approval of the President.

"The White House representatives then proceeded to draft the President's message to Congress on amending the Taft-Hartley Act in keeping with the nineteen-point agreement. I read the message and approved it. When the White House representatives stated that the agreement would be disclosed to the Secretary of Commerce, I raised the question of whether he would have a veto power. The answer was that the Secretary of Commerce could not exercise any veto power and that he would be advised that the President had approved the nineteen agreed-to amendments.

"The decision was then made at the White House to send the President's message on the agreed amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act up to the Con-

gress on July 31, 1953. On that very day Senator Taft died.

"I was then informed that a White House conference had been held and the decision was reached to withhold sending the message to Congress out of deference to the death of the Senator. I was not only assured that the agreement would be made publicly known later, but—in answer to my query—I was told that no changes were to be made in the nineteen points on which we had agreed. However, Congress adjourned shortly thereafter and no Administration position on the amending of the Taft-Hartley Act was ever sent to the Congress during that first session."

Subsequently a famous "leak" to *The Wall Street Journal* occurred and business built up powerful pressure against the proposed amendments. When Mr. Durkin "approached the White House to devise some way of officially releasing the message of the President to the public," he told the convention, "I learned for the first time that there was some reluctance on the part of the White House staff in carrying out the nineteen-point agreement."

On August 19 the President granted Mr. Durkin an appointment at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

"The President and I met alone," Mr. Durkin told the convention, "and discussed the leak of the message on the nineteen-point agreement to *The Wall Street Journal*. We further agreed that the leak in no way lessened the need for releasing the agreed-to nineteen points, even though the Congress was no longer in session. He fully agreed to my position and never at any time in our conversation raised any questions on the agreement as a whole or on any one of the nineteen agreed-to amendments. He agreed that we should go right ahead.

"We then spoke of other matters. In time others joined us and we proceeded with lunch. After lunch he went on to the dedication of the housing unit and I proceeded on to Washington, D. C., with the full knowledge and belief that the agreement on the nineteen points would be respected in full.

"Back in Washington I then called for another meeting at the White House. The meeting was held, but the White House staff persisted in offering us something less than the agreed-to



Vice-President George M. Harrison  
was Education Committee's chairman

nineteen points. We refused to consider such offers and requested instead that our agreement be honored. The staff refused.

"Thereupon, on August 31, 1953, I submitted to the President my resignation through the White House, since by this time the President had returned to Denver. After my resignation had been received by the President, the White House staff—consisting of the same members who had previously represented the President and who had agreed to the nineteen amendments approved by the President—arranged for still another meeting, on or about September 8, to determine whether or not "something could not be done." Again the staff offered

#### WILLIAM GREEN MEMORIAL

The convention established the William Green Memorial Fund and held an impressive memorial service for our departed leader. Former President Truman was one of the speakers at the memorial service. For details of the fund and an account of the memorial service, please turn to Page 24.



State Federation representatives at convention held evening parley

q very weak substitute for the nineteen-point agreement and again I called for adherence to the terms of the agreement.

"Finally, on September 10 at 10:50 A.M., I received a telephone call from the White House advising me that the President wished to see me there at 11:30 A.M. We met and he informed me that he had changed his position since the New York meeting and that he could no longer go along with the nineteen amendments.

"I then explained to the President that as a trade unionist I had been trained to keep collective bargaining agreements entered into between our local union and its employers. I also pointed out that since 1921—when I was first elected business agent of the local union—it was one of my duties to see to it that the local and the employers abided by their agreements.

"In short, adherence to an agreement was a matter of principle with me, and I could not disregard my principles at this late date in my life. Since it was now finally evident to me that the nineteen-point agreement between the President and myself was not going to be kept, I insisted that he accept my resignation. He reluctantly obliged."

Following Mr. Durkin's address, President Meany commented on the statements in numerous newspaper editorials "that a man could not be a Cabinet officer in the Department of Labor if, by training and experience and background, his whole life and his whole attitude was one of sympathy and of interest in the welfare of workers, that he couldn't have this special interest and still serve the Department of Labor and serve the nation." Observed Mr. Meany:

"If there is any validity to the idea that we can't have a special-interest person in the Department of Labor, one who has a special interest in the welfare of the workers, one who has a special interest in carrying out the duties of the Department under its charter, then what about the other Cabinet posts? \* \* \*

"It seems that there is one rule for labor and another for other interests in this nation. It seems perfectly all right for people with special interests to carry out their duties impartially but not for a trade unionist, one who has spent his life promoting the interests and the welfare of the workers, to transfer his activities to a Department that is set up by statute law to promote and protect the interests of the workers.

"So we have some doubts in our minds, some questions about this Administration and its fairness to all. \* \* \* I always thought that when we elected people to office they held office in the interests of all the people."

Senator Stuart Symington of Mis-



Posing for photo with Secretary Schnitzler was a real pleasure for St. Louis auxiliary women

souri addressed the convention. He spoke on national defense. He said:

"The key to our security in this age of atomic weapons and supersonic flight is airpower. This is the consensus of our best military leaders. It is the conviction of that world statesman, Winston Churchill, as well as countless other experts here and abroad.

"Not many weeks ago I sat in the Senate of the United States and saw a majority of my colleagues vote to reduce appropriations for our Air Force by more than five billion dollars.

"To some of us it seemed clear—beyond all question of doubt—that this vote would reduce the air strength of the nation and therefore reduce our ability to preserve a balance of power for the free world.

"This vote was nevertheless accomplished by the Administration because of their promise—a promise repeated over and over again—that this budget would give the nation more combat planes — more airpower — for less



A. F. of L. charter was given to new Longshoremen's Association after former affiliate was ousted by overwhelming vote. Shown with President Meany and Secretary Schnitzler are men to whom new charter was issued. For its first year Mr. Meany and four others are trustees for new union

money. Anybody who knew the truth knew this was sheer propaganda. Neither the Congress nor the public has been told the truth about this defense budget. The truth has been hidden and camouflaged and distorted."

Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice-president and chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was recognized to present the first portion of that committee's exceedingly voluminous report.

The convention unanimously approved the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee in regard to the erection of a new American Federation of Labor headquarters building near the White House in Washington. The committee voiced confidence that affiliated unions "will take advantage of the opportunity to share in the financing of our new national headquarters."

The Resolutions Committee then presented its report dealing with the International Longshoremen's Association. Pointing out that the union had "failed to take remedial action to raise itself and the local unions above suspicion and completely free itself of all racketeering, criminal, corrupt and other irregular activities disclosed by the recent crime investigation" in New York, the committee recommended revocation of the I.L.A.'s certificate of affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

These chairs were occupied by Ryan I.L.A. delegation until convention canceled charter



Joseph P. Ryan, president of the union, spoke in opposition to the committee's recommendation. He suggested that the Executive Council "come in and take over the organization instead of starting a new one." He told of his activities against Communists. Delegate Harry R. Hasselgren of the Longshoremen and Delegate Frank Turco of the Seattle Newsboys also were heard.

President Meany then spoke on the Longshoremen's situation for a few minutes. He said:

"When these things were spread in the daily press, these unchallenged accusations, these admissions under oath, we felt it was the duty of the Council to look into this matter. We had our Council look into it. We got

the records from the daily press and from the proceedings, and I can say to you that I read every single record that I could find, both before and after the letter of February 3 to the Longshoremen.

"You have thirty pages in your Executive Council report dealing with this subject, there for you to read to show the efforts made by the Council to do something to get the Longshoremen themselves, the only people who can do anything about this situation, to do something.

"I can say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that in reading the record before the Crime Commission, the testimony under oath of numerous people, a great many of them officers of this organiza- (Please turn to Page 16)

Secretary of State Dulles delivered an outstanding address. He paid tribute to the valuable contributions of A. F. of L. in struggle to check Communist drive. Here Mr. Secretary is with officers of the A. F. of L.



## Convention



Oregon's Senator Morse, who thinks for himself, was given tremendous applause for speech in which he minced no words



Senator Symington of Missouri discussed nation's airpower in his address to the convention



The I.L.O. was the subject  
of Ralph Wright's address



Richard Deverall described struggle  
for Asia. He's just back from Japan



Senator Hennings made a plea  
for U.S. action on civil defense



Vice-President Nixon tried to do  
a 'selling' job. It boomeranged



American Legion commander  
made customary appearance



Head of the new Department of  
Health, Education and Welfare,  
Mrs. Oveta Hobby was a speaker

## of speakers



American Legion commander  
made customary appearance



Head of the new Department of  
Health, Education and Welfare,  
Mrs. Oveta Hobby was a speaker



Woodruff Randolph was present for International Typographical Union



Lee W. Minton, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers, was active



Hugo Ernst headed the delegation of Hotel and Restaurant Employees

tion, national and local officers, the thing that hit me in the face in reading that record was that I couldn't find anything there that resembled legitimate trade union activity—nothing at all, I am sorry to say. \*\*\*

"So the Executive Council comes here feeling that we have this duty to the other members of the American Federation of Labor, to the longshoremen of America, to try to create for the longshoremen who want to follow American trade union traditions, who want to follow the principles of the A. F. of L., to bring into being for them a union in which they can hold membership and conduct their affairs and hold their heads up and face the world and face the employers. That's the reason we brought in this recommendation for revocation.

"We are taking on a task that is a difficult task if this recommendation is adopted by this convention, but we are taking it on because we know that it must be done, that we must adhere to the traditions of this great movement and try to bring the benefits of trade unionism, real trade unionism.

"That is the reason you have this report and, as I said before, no one on the Executive Council is happy about it. No one wants to spread on this record accusations against these representatives of labor, but we do want to clean the situation up."

A vote on the proposal to revoke the charter was then taken. The vote, under the provisions of the constitution, was a roll-call vote. A two-thirds



Robert L. Soule was the delegate of the New Orleans central body

majority was necessary to effectuate the proposed revocation. The total vote recorded in favor of revocation was 79,079. The vote against revocation was only 736.

With the announcement of the vote, the charter of the International Longshoremen's Association was officially declared revoked, and President Ryan and the other members of his delegation thereupon rose from their seats and filed glumly out of the convention chamber.

### THIRD DAY

*William Green Memorial Fund established; Vice-President Nixon delivers a convention speech; pro-recession employers scored*

The invocation was pronounced by Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman of Temple Israel. Fraternal Delegate Charles J. Geddes, representing the British Trades Union Congress, was introduced. Then President Meany recognized Chairman Woll of the Resolutions Committee for a resumption of that committee's report to the convention.

The proposed William Green Memorial Fund was commended by the Resolutions Committee, and the convention unanimously voted to authorize the establishment of such a fund to "honor the memory of our departed leader by a monument not of stone but of deeds."

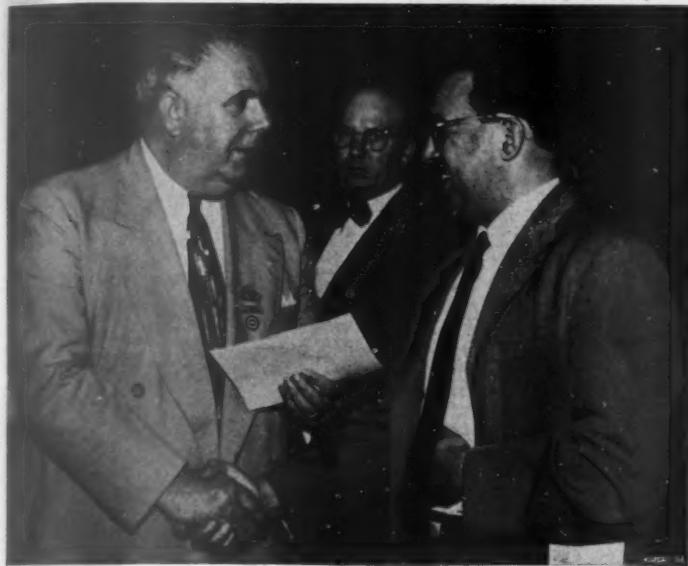
The delegates praised the research, public relations and information activities of the American Federation of Labor during the last twelve months. Continuance of the Frank Edwards radio news program was approved, and labor publications were asked to call upon their readers to "listen regularly."

THE AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST was discussed by the Resolutions Committee in the following language:

"The Executive Council calls attention to the high quality of this monthly official publication of the American Federation of Labor. The wide range of subjects covered in the timely and readable articles appearing in each issue makes the magazine a 'must' in every library and every home.

"We concur in the Executive Council's recommendation that efforts be made during the coming year to increase the circulation of THE AMERICAN FED. (Please turn to Page 21)

Glad to see each other were Vice-President W. C. Doherty and Irving Brown, A. F. of L. representative engaged in free trade union activity in Europe



Louis Marciano was the delegate representing the New Jersey State Federation, one of largest in U.S.



George Q. Lynch, union's president, led the delegation of the Pattern Makers' League at St. Louis meeting



Carl Sickles was present for the Asbestos Workers



Toney Gallo was a member of Cement Workers' delegation



President Sal Hoffmann (left) led the alert, busy delegation representing the Upholsterers

David Sullivan (left) with William L. McFetridge, head of Building Service Employees



In attendance at all sessions was delegation of the Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Genial President Richard Walsh is seen seated at extreme right



John P. Redmond (third from left in the front row) was chief of the International Association of Fire Fighters' delegation

Leo E. George, president of Post Office Clerks, and Anne Busacca, an editor with State, County and Municipal Employees



The Insurance Agents—one of the newer A. F. of L. internationals—were out in full force. Smiling George L. Russ (extreme left) is president



...Tennessee and vicinity' in this shot. One Barber's President W. C. Birthright, the Laundry Workers' own Curtis R. Sims, Printing Workers' George Googe and Stanton Smith and Charles Houk, Tennessee Federation's officers



Paper Makers' President Paul Phillips was most emphatic as he discussed a resolution with a fellow-member of delegation



The subject was organizing—and nothing but organizing—in this confab between Harry E. O'Reilly, A. F. of L.'s director of organization, and Secretary William H. Cooper of the Building Service Employees International Union



These men have been leading the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen in a most successful manner for years. At the left is the thoughtful Secretary Patrick Gorman, while the pipe fancier at the right is President Earl W. Jimerson



Representing American Federation of Government Employees were President James Campbell (at the right) and the two fellow-delegates seen here. Secretary Henrietta Olding, who was elevated to that office not long ago, appears at left



Educational problems were given a going-over by this trio. From left to right, John Fewkes of the Teachers in Chicago, Secretary Irvin Kuenzli of American Federation of Teachers and John Connors, A. F. of L. workers' education director



The Molders' delegation was led by President Chester A. Sample



Joseph McCurdy (holding sign) and his United Garment Workers' group



ERATIONIST among union members and the general public."

The Resolutions Committee's report on the official monthly magazine was unanimously adopted by the convention.

The delegates also adopted reports commending the weekly *AFL News-Reporter*, the Spanish-language *Noticario Obrero Norteamericano* (North American Labor News) and the monthly *Research Report*.

The Resolutions Committee presented a comprehensive report dealing with the nation's economic situation.

"Labor cannot agree," said the report, which the delegates later endorsed without a dissenting vote, "with the proposals that would impair the nation's defense strength or sacrifice the programs of proven need to the welfare of the country."

The report assailed those employer spokesmen "who plainly indicate that they would welcome a mild recession, with enough unemployment to permit wage-cutting." Business would suffer seriously if the national economy is "sent on a downward course," the report said.

Added the committee:

"Once a deflation spiral starts it cannot be checked without destroying the freedom on which the system itself is based. It is for this reason that, with insistent urgency, we call for a comprehensive program assuring the American people and the free world that stable growth, full production and full employment will be maintained in the United States."

With Vice-President Charles J. MacGowan temporarily in the chair, the Committee on Local and Federated Bodies was called upon to present its report. The chairman of this committee was William C. Birthright, president of the Barbers and a vice-president of the A. F. of L. The secretary was James C. Quinn of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York.

A resolution urging international unions to use their influence to secure the affiliation of their local unions with city and state central bodies was recommended for adoption. Before the convention voted, there was considerable discussion. Delegates who spoke on the resolution appealed for increased affiliation of local unions with the city and state branches of the A. F. of L. Sam Ezelle of the Ken-



Milton P. Webster was a member of Sleeping Car Porters' delegation



John Rooney of the Plasterers was a member of Resolutions Committee



Bill Allen was on hand as delegate from Commercial Telegraphers Union



Maintenance of Way Employees were ably represented by T. C. Carroll

tucky State Federation of Labor asserted that the passage of much anti-labor legislation in the states can be traced to the weakness of many State Federations of Labor.

"Our enemies have found our Achilles heel," said Mr. Ezelle. "They have found where we are weak—on the state level."

The convention was addressed by the new commander of the American Legion, Arthur J. Connell of Connecticut. He appealed for a closer working relationship in the field of community service between local unions of the American Federation of Labor and local Legion posts. He praised the organized labor movement for having won dignity and better working and living conditions for millions.

"These are gains for all of us," he said.

In thanking Commander Connell for his address, President Meany said:

"We will continue the cooperation with the American Legion toward the objectives of national security, peace and freedom which are the highest and most cherished objectives of both the American Legion and the American Federation of Labor."

Vice-President Richard Nixon, bearing a message from President Eisenhower, was introduced for an address to the convention. In the course of his address the Vice-President said:

"There have been some discussions in your convention regarding the Taft-Hartley (Please turn to Page 28)



Michael Fox, president of the Railroad Employes' Department, shown here with A. F. of L. Secretary Schnitzler, was alert at the convention to protect the well-being of rail workers

## PEOPLE at

Building Trades' President Richard Gray  
was interested in construction questions



Joseph Keenan, secretary of  
Building Trades Department



President Anthony Valente (left) of Textile Workers  
and J. Albert Woll, the A. F. of L.'s general counsel



# ST. LOUIS

ard Gray building snafu was in thoughts  
questions James Brownlow of Metal Trades



Joseph Denny, secretary, Brotherhood of Bookbinders,  
and Florence Williams, delegate from the same union



Ray Lehman spoke up for magazine  
to be put out by Label Department



Charles B. Gramling (left), secretary of the Operating Engineers,  
and J. C. Turner, a leader of that union in the nation's capital



A memorial service for William Green was held on the fourth day of the convention. One of the speakers was Harry S. Truman

## Memorial Service for William Green

ESTABLISHMENT of a William Green Memorial Fund to honor the memory of the man who served the American Federation of Labor as its president for twenty-eight years was voted by the St. Louis convention, and an impressive and moving memorial service was held during the convention, with the lights dimmed and the delegates hushed, as tribute to the departed leader was paid by his successor and by Harry S. Truman, Matthew Woll and the Rev. John H. Shanley, minister of Mr. Green's church, the First Baptist Church, in Coshocton, Ohio.

The William Green Memorial Fund will be used to honor the memory of the Federation's late president "mainly by a monument not of stone but of deeds."

"It will be a truly living monument dedicated to the purposes of relieving human needs and furthering human betterment," the convention decided.

The Memorial Fund will be financed through a voluntary contribution by each affiliated union of one cent per member per month for twelve months. The convention authorized the Executive Council to provide for a Memorial Committee. President George Meany will be its chairman. The committee is to make all necessary investigations of prospective recipients of fund payments and recommend worthy causes which should benefit from the fund.

At the memorial service, which was attended by three of William Green's daughters and one son, former President Truman said:

"William Green made one of the great contributions to the welfare of



On the platform was draped portrait. The painting of President Green had been given to him at 1950 convention

our country. He believed in the welfare of the people. He believed in helping people. He believed in making life better for those people who did not have a good life, because he started in a position of understanding just what the feelings of the people were, people who didn't even have enough to eat part of the time.

"William Green and I understood the situation from the point of view of having been in the position of the people we were trying to help. Whenever it was necessary for any of the great things which were necessary to

be inaugurated during the Roosevelt administration and during my own administration, we could always count on William Green and his followers to be behind us, because he believed we were trying to do what was right and we knew that he was."

President Meany said:

"When the torch of leadership of this great organization fell from the feeble hands of Samuel Gompers in December of 1924, William Green was called to what was to be his life's work—the work of leading this great organization in the cause of decency, justice and human freedom. He gave everything that he had to his job. I can say to you that I never knew of a man who devoted himself so selflessly to the task at hand. In fact, I never knew of him to have any hobby, any diversion or any recreation except his work. He worked late hours in the office and, while he was in Washington, at his hotel in the evenings he met committees of all kinds.

"During these trying days of his presidency the world went through many changes. During all of that period the oppressed of many lands had at their side and at their command the strong voice of this great American. During the war and during the days of depression his voice was ever raised in behalf of the down-trodden and the oppressed.

"Many organizations in this country set up for the purpose of helping the down-trodden and the oppressed had to call on him for his splendid, active support. The new country of Israel across the sea had his support. Many refugees from the trade union movement in the dispossessed lands

of Eastern Europe were the children of Bill Green. He never failed to raise his voice, he never failed to go to the proper agencies of government in order to secure the release of some individual—just one single individual in some place, the children and orphans of these displaced people, to bring them to this great nation where they could find warmth and comfort and assistance.

"And through it all William Green was a great American.

"Many people disagreed with him. That is the life of a trade union leader. It is the controversial existence that we lead, and it is our lot to be criticized—criticized by the press and privately in all of the social activities with which we come in contact.

"However, none of those who criticized the movement perhaps criticized President Green as a leader of the movement, and they could never doubt for one moment the true, patriotic fervor and the Americanism of Bill Green.

"Rabbi Wise said at the funeral of Samuel Gompers, which I attended many, many years ago in the city of New York:

"Samuel Gompers made a religion of his Americanism."

"The same is undoubtedly true of President Green. As a citizen of the little town of Coshocton he stood out as a friendly neighbor, as one who was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand, and those of us who attended his funeral will never forget that day, when the entire community turned out to give comfort and respect to the representatives of the American Federation of Labor.

"We who are in the organized labor movement recognize organization when we see it, and this little country town did a job of organization that would be the envy of any of the great cities of the nation. They took care of the physical wants of all of these visitors who were there to pay respect to their neighbor.

"Then we listened to a most brilliant sermon by the pastor of Bill Green's home town church, and when the time came for the funeral the entire town turned out. They even stopped the railroad trains from running through the town during the hour of the funeral. People lined the streets. The little factories turned out their personnel. Business houses

closed down. It was a mark of respect from the neighbors of Bill Green to a great American.

"So we of the American Federation of Labor pay our respects to him here today. Yes, we are going to try to continue to pay our respects in the years to come, through the establishment of the William Green Memorial Fund, a project which was acted upon favorably by this convention earlier this week.

"We can truly say that his deeds will live after him, that he will always live in our memory as one who fought the good fight, as one who fought for those who needed help and who was always found on the side of human values as against material values."

Vice-President Woll said:

"President Green was first of all a grand human being. As a human being he was, no doubt, molded by his age. But as a very great human being and redoubtable leader, a man of the people, he also did much to mold the time in which he lived—our time, our age, our period of history and of labor progress.

"Those of us who worked with William Green can attest to his striking sincerity. He had that sense of dedication without which no man can serve well even the best cause. What is more, our late leader could impart that sense of dedication to those around him and to the movement as a whole."

Mr. Woll said that the departed leader was "a man firm of purpose but flexible in his tactics." Mr. Green, he said, was one who loved his fellowmen and who showed warmth and kindness "in his every act."

The Rev. Mr. Shanley, from President Green's own church in the old home town where the future leader had toiled as a coal miner, said:

"Why do we meet here to memorialize your late leader? We are here because many years ago a young coal miner became concerned with the needs of laboring people and their families. But why did he become concerned while others only blamed or endured their lot? May I submit that it was simply because he believed in God as Father-Creator and in his fellow-men as equal brothers under God? He was a man of faith who believed that 'faith without works is dead,' that a man must work out his faith where people live and labor. His was a life founded upon spiritual pilings and geared to a trust in the over-all Fatherliness of God who made each person equally precious.

"The drive of his life came from what he felt to be the rightness of the cause to which he dedicated his long and fruitful life. So, forsaking the early urge to preach, he chose another field for his life investment, trusting that it also was for human betterment. This he did not with fame or fortune in mind but from spiritual motivations.

"The inherent rights of working people had long been compromised. William Green and others pioneered in crashing the gates of greed and injustice. He believed that a man is a man, born with essential dignity of soul. With that conviction all good causes must begin. Consequently, all laboring folk owe a debt to this pioneer and his colleagues for bringing the rights of man before the conscience of mankind."



Three daughters and a son were present for the memorial service. Next to President Meany is Harry Green and then, in the usual order, are Mrs. Melvin Bronnenberg, Mrs. H. A. Scott and Mrs. Clara Scarr. At extreme right is former U.S. President Truman

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ONIST



Delegates perused labor magazine while waiting for call to order



President Petrillo (second from left) and Musicians' delegation

From left, Clem Preller of Washington, D. C., Central Labor Union, Larkin Birmingham and Ed Johns, officers of Baltimore central body



Trade unionists from Toledo. At right is Frank Fischer of Ohio city's central body

The Grain Millers' delegates were on the job. At left, Sam P. Ming, president of the union



James McDevitt of Labor's League had a huddle with J. Scott Milne of the Electrical Workers



Skilled editorial work won a Labor Press plaque for Phil Ziegler of Railway Clerks. Matt Woll at right



John Quimby of San Diego's central body (left) and Herbert Baker of the Painters' delegation



Pat Somerset of the Screen Actors and C. J. Haggerty, California State Federation



Ray Mills (left) of Iowa Federation of Labor with two union men of Dubuque



Not unwilling to speak was Seattle Newsboys' F. Turco



The Bakery Workers presented a plaque to William Schnitzler, former president of the union. From left to right, Mr. Meany, Bakery Workers' Secretary Sims, Brother Schnitzler and James G. Cross, who now heads the union

[Continued from Page 21]

Act, and apparently there is a difference in point of view. Contrary to press reports inferring that I had something to do with the developing of the message that was to be sent to the Congress, as Martin Durkin will tell you, I did not participate in the substance of the message and the discussions in regard to the subjects of the message. My interest was only in its timing."

President Eisenhower's message, which was read by Mr. Nixon, communicated his "sincere good wishes." The message expressed the President's belief that enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act was "a substantial contribution to the quest for sounder labor-management relations." Mr. Eisenhower declared, however, that "the past six years have revealed a number of defects which should be corrected." The message went on to say that the Taft-Hartley Act "manifestly is but a part of the great problems facing American labor today."

The delegates appeared not impressed by Mr. Nixon's speech. It met with a rather cool reception.

At the afternoon session the convention listened to Serafino Romualdi, American Federation of Labor representative for Latin America.

"The general attitude of the Latin American people toward the United States is at present one of disappointment and even hostility," the speaker said. "It is generally believed that the main reason is our comparative economic neglect of Latin America."

Mr. Romualdi said another important cause of dissatisfaction with the United States is our government's

policy of "appeasement of the Latin American military regimes."

"This has seriously impaired our prestige and has made questionable the sincerity of our democratic faith," the speaker declared.

#### Morse Talks

Prolonged applause greeted Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, the next speaker.

"I am delighted to be here this afternoon," said the Oregon Independent, "to discuss with you for a few minutes the subject, 'The Country versus the Country Club.' The speech might also be given under another title referred to yesterday in a very able remark by your president—'Who Owns Whom?'"

Senator Morse commented that "much of what has happened during the past year has not been good for our country."

"The country club seems to have replaced the White House as the headquarters of our government," the speaker pointed out. "Lowering the golf score has seemed to receive more attention than lowering the cost of living."

After mentioning continued increases in the cost of living since the new Administration came into power, Senator Morse said:

"It is high time that American labor, farmers, small businessmen, teachers and consumers generally, who now see that the Millionaires' Club has taken over the White House, proceed to follow a political course of action which will return our government to the rank and file of our people."

The Oregonian assailed President

Eisenhower more than once and charged that the Chief Executive's speech writers "have been so taken over by the techniques of political soap-salesmanship that they seem actually to believe that the American voters will continue to be taken in by their hokum."

Senator Morse closed his address with the following words:

"We are still a long, long way from a constitutional liberal government in the United States. In fact, the Cadillac Crusade is driving at breakneck speed away from it. The most effective roadblock that can stop it is the election in 1954 of a Democratic Congress. I am confident that you will recognize your political responsibility to return the Congress to the people."

Senator Morse was given a thunderous ovation.

Vice-President George M. Harrison presided temporarily. He recognized Vice-President Daniel J. Tobin, chairman of the Committee on Laws. The committee's report was read by Patrick Gorman, secretary of the committee and secretary of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers.

The committee recommended approval of a change in the constitution to increase the number of vice-presidents from thirteen to fifteen. The convention voted in favor of the increase. The committee also recommended \$10,000 salary increases for the Federation's president and secretary-treasurer. This constitutional change was also carried.

The convention unanimously authorized the Executive Council to make a study of the constitution and bring in proposed revisions next year.

The convention also unanimously approved a constitutional change giving the annual conclaves the power to select the convention city two years in advance. This change was recommended because of difficulty experienced in obtaining adequate convention facilities under the one-year rule.

In another action the delegates authorized suitable retirement provisions for the president and secretary-treasurer in the event of their leaving office.

After the Committee on Laws had completed its report, President Meany resumed the chair. The Resolutions Committee then continued with its report. The committee reported on the vital subject of national defense, saying:

"We are gravely disturbed by the view pressed by an influential group of officials in the Administration willing to gut many important military and foreign aid programs solely for the sake of achieving a balanced budget."

The Committee on Education presented its report to the convention. The chairman of this committee was Vice-President Harrison. The report was submitted by the committee's secretary, Irvin R. Kuenzli of the American Federation of Teachers.

On the subject of federal aid to education, President Meany had a few remarks. He said:

"Powerful industrial forces are opposed to federal aid for education. Now, it is in the very nature of things today that we cannot get adequate school facilities unless there is federal aid for education. The American Federation of Labor is for federal aid for education. We are for any kind of aid to education that will insure adequate education of this priceless possession of ours—the nation's children."

The report of the Committee on Education dealt with workers' education, vocational education, teachers' rights, the school lunch program, the international exchange program and many other educational topics of vital concern to working people.

British Fraternal Delegate Geddes then addressed the convention.

"My plea, Mr. Chairman, is that we grasp the essential fact that together we can write a page in history," he said. "Look forward to the day when, instead of just this occasional exchange, you could write to us in the frank way that friends can write. You can write to us and say, 'Hey, John, where are you going?' We can write back and say, 'Hey, Sam, where the hell do you think you are going?'

"And without any misunderstanding, because misunderstanding is the dry rot of friendship."

## FOURTH DAY

### **A. F. of L. is praised by Dulles; 'political courage' is prescribed by L.L.P.E. Director McDevitt; committees submit their reports**

After the Auditing Committee reported, President Meany made presentations of watches to the fraternal delegates and their wives. This custom was established many years ago. Then the Committee on State Organizations urged that international unions, State Federations of Labor and local unions "jointly exert every effort to strengthen our State Federations and L.L.P.E. organizations in order to provide full and effective protection for our members." The committee's report was approved unanimously.

The delegates next heard the report of the Committee on Building Trades. Discussing the nation's housing needs, the committee urged that labor take "a fresh look" at the situation and "come forward with new proposals that would meet with widespread support not only within the labor movement but also throughout the communities of the nation."

James L. McDevitt, director of La-

bor's League for Political Education, addressed the convention.

"We have everything to gain by showing a little political courage," he said. "And we have everything to lose if we sit on the sidelines mutely watching them run roughshod over us."

"Politicians have plenty of respect for people and groups that fight. They have contempt for the weak-spined. And why shouldn't they? Maybe that is the saving factor in democracy. It won't run itself. It forces you to take an interest in how you are governed."

The Committee on Union Labels reported to the convention. Raymond F. Leheney, chairman of the committee, called the attention of the delegates to *Labor Guide*, the new national pocket-size magazine to be published by the Union Label and Service Trades Department.

In one of the major addresses delivered at this year's convention, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles praised the American Federation of Labor for having "done more than any other single body to explode the Communist myth."

"The con- (Please turn to Page 32)



George Meany was decorated in Hawaiian fashion by Honolulu's Delegate A. S. Reile

Visitors from other lands showed a keen interest in happenings at convention



Trade unionists from Asia visited the convention and they were photographed with the A. F. of L's secretary

## *A Lady at the Convention*



ONE of the feminine delegates at this year's convention was Margaret Thornburgh of Oklahoma. The president of a local union of the Glass Bottle Blowers, she served as a member of that international union's delegation at St. Louis. The photo above shows Delegate Thornburgh as she arrived at the convention hotel. Above right, we see her at her union's table on the convention floor, and just above she is chatting with Mrs. Oveta Hobby of Texas, a member of the Cabinet of President Eisenhower.



Active in LL.P.E. in her own state, she was glad to confer with James L. McDevitt, LL.P.E. national director



Cup of hot coffee was very good at the close of a crowded, busy day



Charles J. Geddes (left), a fraternal delegate from Britain, was snapped with two of his American friends



Unanimously elected, Secretary Schnitzler was happy as he made brief talk to the convention



Vice-President David Dubinsky (seated at right) and his Committee on Executive Council's Report, which had a load of work that was of good size



A meeting of the Committee on Organization while convention was in luncheon recess. Chairman of this busy committee was Vice-President Doherty

tribution of your organization" to the winning of peace and security has been a vital one, Mr. Dulles also declared.

"I am very much aware of what you have done," the Secretary of State said. "Had it not been done, we would now have less chance for peace and for the preservation of values even more precious than peace. You and your leaders have been in the struggle where it has been most intense. You have gained an experience and a wisdom which indispensably supplements that of government."

Declaring that no task is more important than exploding the Communist myth, Mr. Dulles said:

"You in your worldwide efforts have proved that it is possible."

The Secretary of State quoted a statement on trade unions behind the Iron Curtain which was given to him by Dr. Marek Korowicz, who came to the United States as a member of the Communist delegation to the United Nations from Poland and later took asylum here. The statement said:

"Trade unions, which by nature are designed to safeguard workers' rights, have become in fact the organs of official Communist control and oppression. Membership is obligatory; meetings are rubber stamps for 'resolutions' dictated from above, and objections cannot conceivably be raised. In short, the 'trade union' is a mechanism for extracting the greatest amount of labor out of the worker."

Following Secretary Dulles' talk, President Meany remarked that

"some bilious columnists" have been critical of the American Federation of Labor "because we feel it is our duty as citizens to interest ourselves in the international field, and it is our duty as trade unionists, in the interests of workers all over the world, to contribute to the welfare of these workers and at the same time to make a contribution to the welfare of our country by advancing the cause of world peace."

Mr. Meany mentioned the work that was done by the A. F. of L. in bringing to the attention of the United Nations the widespread slave labor in Soviet Russia.

"Not only did we bring the question to the United Nations," said Mr. Meany, "but we also brought the information and the witnesses to show the existence of these slave labor camps throughout the entire Soviet empire. We had people on the spot, and we had the will to undertake this task despite the criticism."

"I wish the industrialists would see their duty as citizens in somewhat the same fashion. They seem reluctant. We have the human interest and unfortunately they have the material interest."

At the afternoon session the convention was addressed by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Oveta Culp Hobby. She reported that "definite steps have been taken" to bring 10,000,000 workers under social security coverage. She expressed the hope that "it will be one of the first matters to be taken up when Congress reconvenes in January."

Senator Thomas Hennings of Missouri addressed the convention. He said the United States must not slow the development and the stockpiling of bigger and more devastating atomic and hydrogen bombs. He warned that prompt action must be taken to correct the present "deplorable state" of civil defense.

"All of us have a direct part to play in this program, and labor organizations can be most effective in showing the need for adequate civil defense," the Senator said.

Asserting that there is "no basement way" to national safety, he warned against making a balanced federal budget the primary concern in these times.

"We must do the things necessary to defend our country," he said.

Senator Hennings pointed out that

an aggressor striking first and without warning has a "tremendous advantage" in the atomic era. He said the United States must have adequate radar and other screening equipment and fighter planes to provide "at least some protection from devastation." He also urged the building of an air force with long-range planes capable of hitting back with great force if Russia attacks us.

Because the stakes are so high, Senator Hennings said, "we cannot—we dare not—neglect any honorable effort which might lead the world back from the havoc of war to the blessings of peace."

The Committee on Organization presented its report. Vice-President Daniel J. Tobin was temporarily in the chair. The chairman of the committee was Vice-President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The report was read by the committee's secretary, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The committee commended the A. F. of L.'s Department of Organization, Director Harry E. O'Reilly and the members of the organizing staff. The convention concurred unanimously.

The Committee on Legislation reported. Leo E. George, president of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, was the chairman of this committee. The report was read by Russell M. Stephens, committee secretary.

## FIFTH DAY

*No-raiding agreement approved; new I.L.A. is given its charter; election of officers conducted; resolution condemns slave labor*

The fifth day and final day of the 1953 convention got under way at 9:40 A.M. The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Ralph C. Abele, pastor of the Holy Ghost Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Committee on Industrial Relations, of which Joseph P. McCurdy was chairman, submitted its report to the convention. The report was read by George L. Warfel, committee secretary. The committee won the convention's unanimous approval for "the action of President Meany and the Executive Council to pursue to a successful conclusion the merger of all of our unions within the United



A. Philip Randolph was secretary of the Committee on Organization

States so that labor may truly enjoy the kind of industrial relations which will make for a better America and a successful trade union movement."

In its report the committee stated that it "hails with joy the move for unity within the house of labor."

The Committee on Legislation resumed its report. The committee recommended approval of various resolutions dealing with the problems of postal employees and other government workers. The convention followed the recommendations of the committee. The committee commended the Executive Council for "The Legislative Achievements of the American Federation of Labor," a pamphlet.

The Credentials Committee made its final report, in which it made known that it had received the credentials of 713 delegates, "the largest number in the history of the American Federation of Labor."

The Committee on Executive Council's Report was next. The chairman of this committee, David Dubinsky, called upon the secretary, Miss Selma M. Borchardt, to present the report to the convention.

The committee reported first on the death of President Green and then on the election of President Meany and Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler.

In reference to the passing of Mr. Green, the committee said:

"The Executive Council's formal reference to the death of President Green was amplified to this convention by President Meany in his opening address expressing for all of us the sense of loss his passing put upon us.

"The memorial services which were held yesterday further expressed our appreciation for the services he rendered to us and for us during his years of active and devoted leadership."

Discussing the section of the Executive Council's report which referred to the election of Mr. Meany, the committee said:

"In even the very short time he has served us he has proved to us and demonstrated to the world his fitness for the great task we have entrusted to him. We have found him to be a man of integrity and wisdom whose vision is clear, whose judgments are sound, whose administration is efficient; a leader at once cautious and courageous; a speaker eloquent and profound.

"We pledge to him the support

which he so richly inspires us to give him."

Taking up the section of the Council's report dealing with the election of Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler, the committee said:

"The election of Brother William F. Schnitzler, president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union, as secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor has proved to be a happy one.

"Brother Schnitzler in the short time he has held this office has won the respect and affection of those with whom and for whom he serves.

"He is doing his job well; he is ably maintaining the highest traditions of the A. F. of L."

The committee's reports on the late president and on President Meany and Secretary Schnitzler won the unanimous approval of the delegates.

#### New I.L.A. Chartered

A charter was issued to the new International Longshoremen's Association, A. F. of L. The charter was issued to R. A. Walton, E. L. Slaughter, Robert Affleck, Larry Long, B. D. Fitzpatrick, Mark A. Moran, Patrick J. Cullinan Jr., George Kaestner and Frank Hargraves.

There was enthusiastic applause as President Meany declared:

"This is a charter of the American Federation of Labor issued to the International Longshoremen's Association, A. F. of L."

A committee of five was named to act as trustees for the new organization for a period of one year. President Meany is chairman of this committee. The other members are William C. Doherty, Dave Beck, A. J. Hayes and Paul Hall.

Officers were elected for the ensuing term. By unanimous vote, George Meany was chosen as president for the ensuing term. William F. Schnitzler was elected secretary-treasurer, also by unanimous vote. The following vice-presidents were reelected: Matthew Woll, George M. Harrison, Daniel J. Tobin, Harry C. Bates, William C. Birthright, William C. Doherty, David Dubinsky, Charles J. MacGowan, Herman Winter, Daniel W. Tracy, William L. McFetridge, James C. Petrillo and Dave Beck. As the new fourteenth and fifteenth vice-presidents, the convention elected Maurice A. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters



Serafino Romualdi said U.S. has lost popularity in Latin America

and Joiners, and A. J. Hayes, president of the International Association of Machinists, respectively.

The Bakery and Confectionery Workers presented an impressive plaque to Brother Schnitzler, the former president of that international union. The presentation was made by James G. Cross, president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers.

Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler then addressed the convention. After expressing his "deep appreciation," he said:

"In summing it all up, I can only see before us, as President Meany mentioned just a short while ago, a real team within the meaning of the word 'team,' with the spirit and enthusiasm to build this organization of yours greater than it has ever been before. You can rest assured that I will do everything humanly possible as an individual to dedicate myself to this great work of building this American Federation of Labor."

Los Angeles was chosen as the site of next year's convention and Chicago was designated for the 1955 conclave.

The proposed no-raiding agreement between the A. F. of L. and C.I.O. was ratified by the convention. The agreement, if it is also approved by the C.I.O. at its November convention, will go into effect on January 1. It is generally considered that adoption of the non-raiding pact would be a long step toward ending the division in organized labor.

The American Medical Association was denounced for its "false and malicious propaganda" against national



Star labor reporters were present, and they wrote millions of words during the week

health insurance. Such a program was termed "among the most pressing of the unfinished tasks confronting this nation."

"We urge that the American Federation of Labor and all its affiliates and members continue and accelerate their endeavors to secure the enactment of such a program," the committee said.

The convention gave unanimous endorsement to this recommendation.

A resolution dealing with Labor's League for Political Education was adopted. This resolution, sponsored by the International Typographical Union, calls upon all members of organized labor to give liberally of their time and finances to L.L.P.E. units in their communities and to take part actively in next year's primary and general election campaigns.

The Resolutions Committee expressed its "sympathy" with a resolution introduced by the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders calling for a national direct primary for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President. The resolution was ordered referred to the A. F. of L.'s officers for "study and formulation of policy."

A resolution on slave labor, sponsored by the delegation representing the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, was unanimously adopted by the convention. Under this resolution the convention called upon the government to instruct the U.S. delegation at the United Nations

General Assembly "to propose and solicit support" for the establishment of a permanent Assembly committee on forced labor.

#### Deverall Speaks

Richard Deverall, A. F. of L. representative in Asia, addressed the convention. He reported on the battle for Asia. He told of the Communists' efforts to get Japan behind the Iron Curtain.

"Red China seeks the colonial domination of most of Asia and, above all, the seduction of industrial Japan," Mr. Deverall said. "This decisive struggle for totalitarian rule over all Asia is just beginning. Should Red China be successful, we will see in

'God Bless America' and 'Auld Lang Syne' were sung as the convention came to its end



our lifetime the beginning of the end of democracy in what is left of the free world."

After the report of the Committee on International Labor Relations and action on additional resolutions upon which the Resolutions Committee reported, Secretary Schnitzler read a list of deceased trade unionists, and then a moment of silence was observed by all the delegates.

The convention's final resolution was from the Resolutions Committee itself. This resolution expressed thanks and appreciation to all who had helped to make the convention a success. Among those listed were the officers and members of the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union, the Convention Committee, the Missouri State Federation of Labor, the officials and the citizens of St. Louis and the representatives of the press, radio and television.

In his closing remarks President Meany said:

"I want to express my appreciation to the delegates for the splendid attention and for the fine attendance that we have had at this session and for their full and complete cooperation in allowing us to do a lot of business in the short period of five days."

Vice-President Doherty led the audience in the singing of "God Bless America" and "Auld Lang Syne."

Then, at 5:25 P.M. of Friday, September 25, 1953, the seventy-second convention of the American Federation of Labor—a highly successful convention—adjourned sine die.

# EXCERPTS FROM THE KEYNOTE SPEECH

*The following are excerpts from A. F. of L. President George Meany's keynote address at last month's St. Louis convention:*

I think those who have been in attendance here for many, many years are thinking of Bill Green's years as the steward of this organization, of 1924, when he came to the American Federation of Labor and when its membership was at a low ebb, having lost more than a million and a quarter members from its peak in 1920 following conclusion of World War I.

Bill Green faced many tasks during his incumbency as president. In the Twenties, the days of the boom, we were still fighting the fight against the vicious "American Plan," that misnamed instrument to destroy the conditions of labor in this country. We were still fighting the company unions, still fighting the anti-labor injunction, still fighting those who placed material values above human values. For twenty-seven years and eleven months Bill Green carried the torch of American labor—carried it and held it high.

I could say a good deal about the record of the American Federation of Labor in regard to the menace of communism. You all know it well. You know how we fought this menace long before anyone else knew or anyone else could realize that the destruction of the freedom of the workers of Russia was a threat to the freedom of the workers of America.

You all know that we took the same position in regard to the menace of fascism and the menace that was inherent in the policies of Hitler and those associated with him in Nazi Germany.

Yes, we are internationalists; yes, we think of the threat and the menace of world communism. We have made our contribution and we are going to continue to make our contribution to keep men free.

We recognize the community of interests of every worker on the face of the earth. The things that bother us as workers, the things to which we

aspire as workers are the same things to which the workers of Burma, the workers of Japan, the workers of Italy and the workers of Germany aspire.

We see in Washington a big change. We see a situation where, very definitely, human values have been submerged to the material welfare of the greedy few.

We have intelligence enough to know that this organization was not formed as a battleground for competing trade unionists. We know that there is a tradition in this organization that in union there is strength, and we know that it is the duty of the strong union, if it possibly can do so, to help the weak union in another trade—not to destroy the weak union.

Someone has said that we should have a bible of trade union ethics. We don't need any bible of trade union ethics. We know the purpose of our movement; we have the God-given intelligence to know right from wrong; and we can apply that intelligence under the rules of this organization as it now exists to see to it that organizations do not depart from the path of real, sound trade union activity.

We are going to continue to look to Washington and to our government for the things that mean so much to the great mass of the people in this country. If we are going to continue to look, then we must come to the conclusion that our political activity must be stepped up.

No better argument can be made for political action in the interests of our movement, to carry out the objectives for which we are organized, than the record of this Congress last spring.

We know what the trade unions have done for America. We can point to every improvement and say that it has our label on it.

The German labor movement must remain free. Germany can make a great contribution to world peace, but

it can only make that contribution by following the lines that lead to peace, by the maintenance of freedom of all segments of the German economy, and particularly by the maintenance of freedom on behalf of the workers of that great country.

So we can say here this morning, and issue an appeal to the people of Germany, to all the people of Germany: "Don't let your government take that first false step which will lead Germany once again down the path to war and ruin, as has happened twice in this century."

And as we turn our eyes to the future, we will think of the fact that we are sure, deep down in our hearts, that the things that are good for America are good for the American Federation of Labor.

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(s) **BERNARD TASSLER**  
Managing Editor,  
**THE AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST**

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of October, 1953.

**ROBERT J. MCKENNA**  
(Seal) Notary Public,  
District of Columbia  
My commission expires February 28, 1958.

# Labor NEWS BRIEFS

►Local 656 of the Butcher Workmen, Portland, Ore., has won an across-the-board wage increase and an employer-paid health and welfare plan in a new contract with Armour and Company. About 250 members of Local 656, employed in the Portland Armour plant, are covered by the agreement.

►The first union contract for agents of the Girard Health and Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia, has been negotiated by Local 49 of the Insurance Agents. The three-year pact provides higher wages, job security, welfare and other important benefits.

►Local 125 of the Printing Pressmen, Oakland, Calif., has signed a new agreement which provides a \$1.75 weekly increase, five extra days off with regular pay for all five-year men and a health and welfare plan covering members and their families.

►Local 219 of the Teamsters, Denver, has signed an agreement with the Brechte Candy Company which provides that employes will share in 20 per cent of the firm's profits. Shares will be based on the number of hours worked.

►A new 7½-cent wage differential for truck work has been won by members of Lodge 1414 of the Machinists, San Mateo, Calif. The premium is part of a new agreement covering more than 1,000 auto mechanics in sixty dealer and repair shops of two California counties.

►Local 926, Auto Workers, reports valuable additions to its current contract as a result of negotiations with the Fruehauf Trailer Service Branch at Omaha, Nebr. Improvements have been made in vacation and paid holiday schedules and wages increased.

►Local 222, Bakery Workers, has won increases of 10 and 11 cents an hour in Minneapolis and St. Paul. An additional boost of 9 cents an hour will be paid as of next May 1.



Organized labor was out in full force at this year's California State Fair, and the union label message was disseminated widely among huge throngs visiting the big show. The Bakery and Confectionery Workers publicized their union label with the aid of a pretty girl and a blowup of the label. The gentleman at the left is Raymond F. Leheney, secretary of the Union Label and Service Trades Department

►Members of the United Hatters employed at the Mallory Hat Company in Danbury, Conn., have won varied benefits through recent negotiations by Locals 10, 11 and 12. Among the gains are a larger number of paid holidays and an increase in hospitalization payments under the health and welfare fund.

►Local 9 of the Bookbinders, St. Joseph, Mo., has completed contract negotiations with the Western Tablet and Stationery Company. Employes in other company plants are also affected by the agreement, which includes a pension plan.

►The Ladies' Garment Workers in Chicago have won wage increases for over 4,500 workers in an agreement with the Chicago Dress Manufacturers' Association. The increases benefit employes in ninety factories.

►Local 435 of the Teamsters, Denver, has secured a guaranteed five-day week, an improved vacation plan and an increase in hourly pay for 550 grocery driver members.

►Local 261 of the Brotherhood of Carpenters has won an hourly increase of 12½ cents for more than 400 members at Hazelton, Pa.

# The Bike-Hike

BETSY looked at herself in the mirror. Her reflection showed her to be a pretty girl. Light, fluffy hair gently curled around her face. When she smiled there were sparkling white teeth showing between her lips. A dimple flashed in one cheek. Its companion showed in the other cheek only when she really laughed to make it more pronounced.

"Well, I guess I'll do," she said to herself. "Not much I can do to change it anyway."

Her reverie of inspection was cut short by a visit from her chum, Mildred, who lived next door.

"Betsy, guess what! Bob just called me, and he and Paul want to know if you and I can help them get up a crowd for a bike-hike on Saturday. Do you think we can?"

"This is Tuesday. That gives us Wednesday to ask the kids at school. We should be able to have a crowd by Friday to make it definite. However, there is this little point: Saturday is our regular meeting day for the Junior Union, and unless I am greatly mistaken, Mr. Tremont was going to have a special speaker."

"Oh, hadn't you heard? Mr. Tremont has been sent out of town to do some organizing work and won't be here. The program is left high and dry this time as he just didn't have a chance to get anyone for us. That's why the boys thought it would be a good idea to take advantage of this wonderful October weather while we had a meeting day with no regular program set up."

"That should make it almost mandatory to have a bike-hike then," said Betsy with a smile. "Such a break must be an indication that we should proceed without delay to get things in order."

"Oh, Betsy, you sound so efficient, and you look so, oh, so sort of pretty and decorative, you sometimes surprise me," said Mildred admiringly.

"But I am efficient," said Betsy. "Extremely so." And she smiled.

Mildred nodded in agreement.

"And just to prove it, I have another idea," said Betsy, a twinkle in her eye. "If Mr. Tremont is on an organizing trip, why don't we take a tip from him and use our outing to do some organizing ourselves? We could ask some of the kids we would like to join the Junior Union who are eligible and who are new in school, or didn't join last year. I'll bet we could get about a dozen new members that way."

"Betsy, that's a very good idea," said Mildred.

The two girls went to work. They enlisted the boys' aid and suggestions. They conferred with the membership committee and helped the committee prepare and send out invitations to prospective members. Their enthusiasm was contagious.

On Saturday the members and their guests met in the vacant lot which adjoined the Central Labor Union building. Several of the youngsters did not have bicycles, so they were to hike along, and the ones with bikes were to take the food and go ahead to the designated picnic spot three miles out of town. Bob and Paul, who had first suggested the expedition, proclaimed themselves to be liaison officers, and volunteered to keep communications open between the riders and the walkers by riding back and forth between the two groups from time to time.

"Important guys, us two," Paul told Betsy. "If anyone strays away or gets lost, we check on 'em and bring 'em back alive."

"Yes," said Bob, "and by the time we get back to town late this afternoon I hope we have a lot of new members to bring back, too. Applications, that is. We can't take them in until two weeks have passed."

"We'll have us a new crop of members for Mr. Tremont's homecoming," said Paul. "But let's get started. I think everyone is ready to move forward."

Mounting his bicycle, he called to the rest to come along.

There was much hilarity in the two groups, and Bob and Paul were busy carrying messages—some rather silly—between the two outfits. Junior Union songs were sung as they moved along, their voices ringing out clear and strong. Whether on foot or on wheels, the teen-agers were enjoying to the full the crisp, sunny weather and their companionship on the road. What a grand day!

Appetites were well whetted by the time noon came. The girls and boys fell to eagerly, disposing quickly of the generous lunches they had brought. Some of the advance guard had collected wood and started a good barbecue fire. After their repast the young people cleaned up the picnic area and made sure that the fire was out.

"No forest fires on account of us," remarked one of the boys.

Before the start back to town, Bob, Paul, Mildred and Betsy put on a little skit about the Junior Union. This was followed by the members singing a few of the Junior Union songs, and then the president made a short speech about the good times and the worthwhile activities of the organization. He was followed by the chairman of the membership committee, who invited all those present who were not already Junior Union members to make application. Cards for them to fill in were passed out to the non-members.

Then—much too soon, it seemed—it was time to start for home.

That night Mildred and Betsy were reviewing the events of the day. Mildred said:

"You know, Betsy, I'm right. You are efficient, sure enough. We have fourteen new applications for membership tonight because our bike-hike was such a success."

And Betsy, flashing her dimples, said:

"The credit goes to you and the boys. The bike-hike was their idea, not mine. I just suggested we use the opportunity to organize."



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